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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Organization of Consumers Union, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Women's International Democratic Federation, Soroptimist International, Zonta International (category I); Disabled Peoples' International, International Abolitionist Federation, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of University Women, Italian Centre of Solidarity, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), Socialist International Women, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Young Women's Christian Association (category II); and European Union of Women, International Inner Wheel, International Association of Charities and World Peace Council (roster)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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Recalling decision 35/102 of the Commission on the the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 on the world conference on women in 1995,

Noting that the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (E/CN.6/1992/3) mentions important regional preparatory activities,

Appreciating the intention to host an NGO Forum expressed by the Governments of Austria and China in their invitation to hold a world conference on women in 1995.

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*E/CN.6/1992/1.

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The above-mentioned non-governmental organizations,

Draw the attention of the members of the Commission on the Status of Women to the fact that the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995) is as essential as in the previous world conferences on women held at Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985. Participation is also essential to non-governmental organizations in their role of publicizing the results of the Conference as well as contributing to the implementation of its decisions. The holding of three successful parallel NGO forums proved to be essential for establishing a future agenda for non-governmental organizations and also for government action.

Strongly recommend,

At the national and regional levels: Governments should make special efforts to involve grass-roots women's organizations, national and regional non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals concerned with the advancement of women, in the planning of preparatory activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women and in establishing national and regional programmes of action;

National and regional non-governmental organizations should be encouraged and their full participation facilitated to help to develop a platform for action to be adopted by the Conference;

At the regional level: regional economic commissions include provision for regional non-governmental organization forums in the planning of preparatory conferences;

That mechanisms should be established by regional non-governmental organization focal points and by women's units of the regional commissions to include non-governmental organizations in the planning of such events and make provisions for input to the regional programmes of action by these organizations;

At the international level: the Commission on the Status of Women should request the Secretary-General to continue to provide facilities so that non-governmental organizations can continue holding preparatory meetings for the Conference at the time of the sessions of the Commission in 1993, 1994 and 1995;

Arrangements should be made to permit input from the NGO planning committee to the formulation of the final document of the Conference;

The host Government for the Conference should commit support for an NGO Forum immediately prior to the Conference, possibly with some overlap;

The Forum must be open and accessible to all interested non-governmental organizations. A procedure should be established to create a mechanism to communicate the results of the NGO Forum to the Conference.